

J. WALTER DUNCAN.

MAY 17, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRADLEY, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the  
following

ADVERSE REPORT.

[To accompany S. 7420.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 7420) for the relief of J. Walter Duncan, ex-postmaster at Adamston, Harrison County, W. Va., on account of losses resulting from a burglary of the post-office at Adamston, W. Va., September 7, 1908, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do not pass, and in support of such recommendation submits herewith the letter of R. P. Goodwin, Assistant Attorney-General, as follows:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY-GENERAL,  
*Washington, April 13, 1910.*

MY DEAR SIR: With reference to your letter of the 10th instant to the First Assistant Postmaster-General, which has been referred to me, concerning the claim of J. Walter Duncan, postmaster at Adamston, W. Va., for credit on account of losses resulting from the burglary of the post-office September 7, 1908, I inclose herewith copy of the brief of the evidence in the case, from which it appears that the loss resulted from the postmaster's failure to comply with the requirements of section 356, Postal Laws and Regulations, 1902, from which the following is an extract:

"4. Where stamps and funds are kept in iron safes with 'combination locks,' such safes must be carefully and completely locked at night or when the office is left without occupants for any considerable length of time. The common practice of closing safes with what is known as 'day lock' or 'day combination' affords no protection against experienced burglars; and in case of loss resulting therefrom no credit will be allowed."

I also inclose copy of a letter from the Postmaster-General to the Hon. George W. Prince, chairman of the House Committee on Claims, expressing the opinion that Mr. Duncan is not entitled to the relief asked for.

Yours, very truly,

R. P. GOODWIN.

Hon. W. O. BRADLEY,  
*United States Senate.*

